

**BMSGH Bromsgrove
Branch Briefing
Editor Mike Fisher
Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.45 p.m.**

***“The Seventeenth Century Foleys “
“Iron, Wealth & Vision 1580-1716”
by
Roy Peacock***

The Foleys of the seventeenth century were a remarkable family. Richard Foley progressed from his origins as the son of a Dudley nailer to being the most successful Midlands iron-master of his time. He moved to Stourbridge and from there his ambitious sons and daughters went out to north Staffordshire and the Forest of Dean, to the cities of Worcester, Bristol and London, and overseas to Ireland and as far as Constantinople. Their wealth was turned into land and four estates with fine houses were established: Witley Court, Prestwood Hall, Longton Hall and Stoke Edith.

The Foley vision, however, was broader than industry, land and wealth. Their motives reflected some of the key religious and political values of the dramatic seventeenth century, especially in their desire to extend the role of Parliament. They welcomed its victory in the first civil war, welcomed the Restoration but opposed James II in 1688. A Foley married Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, England’s first ‘prime minister’, and Thomas Foley III was elevated to the peerage as Baron Foley in 1712. They were patrons of Richard Baxter, the greatest of the religious leaders of the day, and came to value the importance of education. Existing grammar schools in Dudley and Stourbridge were supported and new schools, notably, Old Swinford Hospital, established. Its foundation is dealt with extensively and the portrait of Thomas Foley appears on the cover.



Ireland – *IrishGenealogy.ie*, the official genealogy website of the Irish government, has updated their indexes to historic civil records. The indexes have been updated to include birth records over 100 years old (1914 and earlier), marriage records over 75 years old (1939 and earlier) and death records over 50 years old (1964 and earlier).



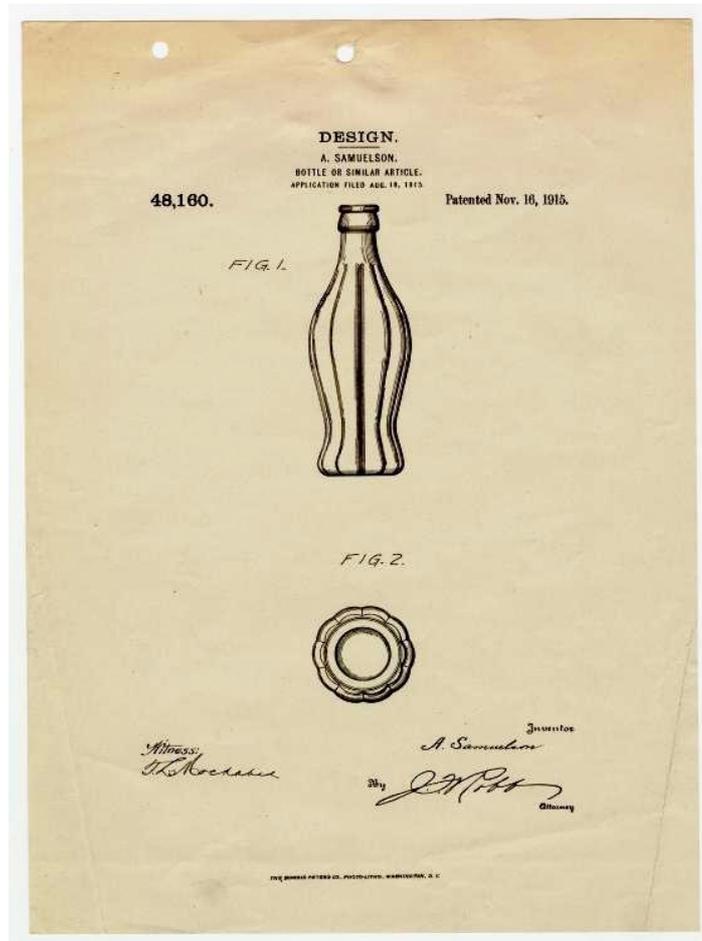
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It was due on the 1st of January 2016

p.t.o

Coke Bottle 100 years old

The USA Patent Office granted design patent No. 48,160 to the Root Glass Company of Terre Haute, Ind.

The design patented Nov. 16, 1915 is still recognizable today: the Coca-Cola bottle, one of the first examples of a beverage company differentiating itself by its packaging. The original patent is currently on display at the National Archives Museum in Washington, D.C.



Conover Parish Register for January 1757:

"Samuel a Bastard Son of Elizabeth STAUNTON Begotten by A B C D E F G baptized the 23rd!"

A Vicar with a sense of humour!

Next month "Rattling the Family Skeletons"

by Author Robert Ronsson

Regards Mike Fisher